Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USUN N 00948 211807Z

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01 ISO-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3170
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 948

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, XF
SUBJ: SC CONSULTATIONS ON UNEF

REF: USUN 937 AND PREVIOUS (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: AT REQUEST OF USSR, SC HELD INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS MARCH 20 ON VARIETY OF QUESTIONS RELATED TO UNEF. NO SIGNIFICANT NEW ISSUES WERE RAISED. SYG REPLIED IN GENERAL TERMS TO SOME OF QUESTIONS PUT BY SOVS IN EARLIER CONSULTATIONS, BUT AVOIDED OTHERS. SOVS SPOKE AT LENGTH, BUT IN LOW KEY. EXCEPTION WAS ISRAELI DISCRIMINATION ISSUE: ON THIS, USSR DEMANDED FULL REPORT BY SYG ON MEASURES BEING TAKEN TO CORRECT SITUATION. END SUMMARY.

2. CONSULTATIONS BEGAN WITH "INFORMAL REVIEW" BY SYG OF SITUATION REGARDING UNEF:
(A) SYG REHEARSED REASONS PREVIOUSLY GIVEN FOR POSSIBLE AUGMENTATION OF UNEF TO STRENGTH LARGER THAN SEVEN THOUSAND.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 USUN N 00948 211807Z

HE PARTICULARLY EMPHASIZED THAT ENLARGEMENT WAS

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

FORCED UPON HIM BY SC DECISION TO HAVE LOGISTIC COMPONENT
COMPRISING TWO COUNTRIES.

(B) ON INCREASED UNEF COSTS OVER ORIGINAL ESTIMATES,
WALDHEIM POINTED OUT THAT CONTINGENTS WERE SUPPOSED TO ARRIVE
COMPLETELY SELF-CONTAINED, BUT IN FACT MOST HAVE REQUIRED
CONSIDERABLE EQUIPMENT WHICH UN HAS HAD TO PROVIDE. FOR
EXAMPLE, UN HAS HAD TO PURCHASE A MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF
TENTAGE ALONE.

(C) SYG SAID THAT BEFORE APRIL 25 RENEWAL OF MANDATE, HE
WOULD SUBMIT RECOMMENDATION TO SC, BASED ON PROPOSALS OF
FORCE COMMANDER, REGARDING FUTURE SIZE OF FORCE. HE SAID HE
DID NOT ANTICIPATE ANY INCREASE IN SIZE. HE ADDED THAT HE
HAD ALREADY UNDERTAKEN REDUCTIONS TO KEEP FORCE UNDER SEVEN
THOUSAND AND PLANNED FUTURE CUTS. IN ADDITION TO ALREADY
ANNOUNCED REDUCTION OF PERUVIAN CONTINGENT, HE INTENDED TO
ASK AUSTRIA, FINLAND AND SWEDEN TO REDUCE THEIR CONTINGENTS
BY ONE HUNDRED MEN AT NEXT ROTATION.

(D) WALDHEIM SAID HE INTERPRETED ORIGINAL MANDATE TO COVER
DEPLOYMENT OF UNEF ON NORTHERN FRONT, SHOULD SYRIAN-ISRAELI
DISENGAGEMENT TAKE PLACE, WITHOUT THE NEED FOR FURTHER SC
ACTION.

(E) SYG SAID HE WAS VERY CONSCIOUS OF IMPORTANCE OF EQUITABLE
GEOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATION. UNEF'S TWO BRIGADE COMMANDERS WERE
FROM INDONESIA AND PERU, AND HE HAD ASKED GHANA TO PROVIDE
CHIEF OF STAFF. ALSO, ON MILITARY STAFF MEMBERS ASSISTING
FINNISH GENERAL KOHO AT UNHQTS WERE NEPALESE, GHANAIAN
AND POLISH OFFICERS. PERU AND CANADA HAD ALSO BEEN
ASKED TO FURNISH OFFICERS FOR THIS STAFF.

(F) SYG SAID UN POSITION WAS THAT NO DIFFERENTIATION
COULD BE MADE IN STATUS OF CONTINGENTS. HE SAID FUNDAMENTAL
UN POINT IN STATUS OF FORCE NEGOTIATIONS NOW UNDERWAY WITH
PARTIES WAS THAT ALL CONTINGENTS MUST BE TREATED EQUALLY.

(G) FINALLY, WALDHEIM NOTED THAT SECRETARIAT WAS NOW
ENGAGED IN SERIES OF CONSULTATIONS WITH TROOP CONTRIBUTING GOVTS
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 USUN N 00948 211807Z

IN EFFORT TO STANDARDIZE REIMBURSEMENT CRITERIA AND ESTABLISH
A CEILING FOR PAYMENT OF UNEF TROOP CONTRIBUTORS.

3. USSR PERMREP MALIK FOLLOWED WITH LENGTHY, RAMBLING AND
GENERALLY LOW-KEY STATEMENT. IT WAS FULL OF NIT-PICKS, BUT
CONTAINED NO SURPRISES OR IMPORTANT CHALLENGES TO SYG'S
AUTHORITY. SIGNIFICANT POINTS WERE AS FOLLOWS:

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

(A) DIFFICULT FINANCIAL POSITION IN WHICH UNEF FOUND ITSELF STEMMED IN PART FROM LACK OF AGREEMENT ON PEACEKEEPING GUIDELINES. UN MEMBERS WERE PAYING PRICE OF IMPROVISATION AT TIME THAT UNEF WAS ESTABLISHED. MALIK HONED IN ONCE AGAIN ON SIZE OF CANADIAN CONTINGENT. HE THOUGHT CANADA SHOULD HAVE SENT AT MOST HALF OF ELEVEN HUNDRED TROOPS NOW SERVING IN UNEF.

(B) MALIK SAID COUNCIL SHOULD REVIEW UNEF'S STRENGTH, EXPENDITURES AND ALL OTHER IMPORTANT MATTERS IN APRIL REVIEW OF MANDATE. HE URGED SYG NOT TO INCREASE SIZE OR EXPENDITURES IN MEANTIME.

(C) MALIK SAID HE WAS NOT SATISFIED WITH SYG'S RESPONSE TO HIS QUESTION ABOUT ISRAELI DISCRIMINATION AGAINST CONTINGENTS WITH WHOSE GOVTS IT DID NOT HAVE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. HE FELT THAT FURTHER EXPLANATION WAS NEEDED, AND ASKED SYG TO DESCRIBE MEASURES TAKEN TO END ISRAELI DISCRIMINATION IN HIS NEXT REPORT. MALIK SAID ISRAELI DISCRIMINATION IMPEDED NORMAL FUNCTIONING OF UNEF AND DIMINISHED ITS EFFECTIVENESS. IT MADE LARGER NUMBERS NECESSARY AND THUS ADDED TO COSTS. HE ASKED PARTICULARLY WHICH CONTINGENTS WERE PATROLLING AND OBSERVING AREA ADJACENT TO ISRAELI-OCCUPIED TERRITORY. SPECIFICALLY, HE ASKED SYG TO REPORT ON WHICH CONTINGENTS MADE UP PATROLS IN UNEF INSPECTIONS OF AREAS OF LIMITED ARMAMENTS (PARA 10, S/11056/ADD.14).

4. ON BEHALF OF NON-ALIGNED, PERU THANKED SYG FOR "HIS EXCELLENT REPORT, IN WHICH HE ANSWERED ALL QUESTIONS OF USSR DEL." PERUVIAN PERMREP'S MAIN POINT CONCERNED IMPORTANCE OF PROMPT DEVELOPMENT OF EQUITABLE REIMBURSEMENT FORMULA. HE SAID DEVELOPING COUNTRIES COULD ACCEPT A CEILING ON REIMBURSEMENT SO LONG AS NO DISCRIMINATION WAS INVOLVED. HE CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 04 USUN N 00948 211807Z

HOPED SYG WOULD BE ABLE TO BEGIN PAYING CONTRIBUTORS BEFORE 29TH GA, LEAVING TO ASSEMBLY WHATEVER ADJUSTMENTS IT WISHED TO MAKE.

5. UK, AFTER EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO SYG, SAID IT CONSIDERED THAT SYG'S PERIODIC PROGRESS REPORTS ON UNEF SHOULD REMAIN NORMAL METHOD FOR KEEPING SC INFORMED. ANY MEMBER MIGHT OF COURSE TAKE UP INDIVIDUALLY WITH SECRETARIAT ANY POINT IN A PROGRESS REPORT WHICH IT CONSIDERED NEEDED CLARIFICATION.

6. AMB BENNETT COMMENDED SYG FOR REPORT WHICH WAS "CLEAR, CONCISE AND COMPLETE." IT SEEMED TO US DEL THAT ALL QUESTIONS PUT TO SYG HAD BEEN ADEQUATELY AND SUITABLY ANSWERED. ALL MEMBERS OF COURSE SHARED SYG'S CONCERN ABOUT RISING UNEF EXPENSES, AND IT WAS GOOD THAT SOME REDUCTIONS HAD ALREADY

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

BEEN MADE. BENNETT NOTED THAT SYG HAD BEEN CONFRONTED WITH A NUMBER OF UNEXPECTED EXPENSES, SOME OF THEM DUE TO SC ITSELF. IN PARTICULAR, UNEF CONTINGENTS HAD BEEN SELECTED BY SC WITHOUT CONCERN FOR THEIR STATE OF READINESS. IN CONCLUSION, BENNETT SAID US DEL SAW NO POINT IN MAKING AN ISSUE OF "WHAT PATROL WENT WHERE, OR WHO WAS ON IT." THIS WAS NOT EVEN MATTER FOR SYG TO DECIDE BUT RATHER RESPONSIBILITY OF LOCAL COMMANDER. WE COULD ALL TAKE SATISFACTION OVER FACT UNEF ORGANIZED AND DESPATCHED QUICKLY (PREVIOUS PEACEKEEPING EXPERIENCE HAD BEEN USEFUL HERE) AND SC SHOULD BE CAREFUL NOT TO INTERFERE WITH UNEF'S EFFICIENT OPERATION IN THE FIELD.

7. FOLLOWING BYELORUSSIAN REPRISE OF USSR STATEMENT, SYG UNDERTOOK TO ANSWER SOME OF QUESTIONS PUT TO HIM. BY AND LARGE, HE AVOIDED BREAKING NEW GROUND AND SIMPLY RECAPITULATED POINTS MADE IN HIS EARLIER STATEMENT. HE DID, HOWEVER, FINALLY RESPOND TO TWO SOVIET INTERVENTIONS ASKING WHY POLES SHOULD HAVE BEEN PICKED FOR DANGEROUS WORK OF MINE CLEARING WITH WHAT USYG LATER DESCRIBED TO AMB. SCHAUFELE AS "GHASTLY" ANSWER. WALDHEIM SAID HE WOULD IMMEDIATELY INQUIRE OF UNEF COMMAND WHY POLES SHOULD HAVE BEEN CHOSEN FOR JOB.
BENNETT

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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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